

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, UN

SUBJECT: DRAFT DECLARATION FOR LAGOS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) LAGOS 9475; (B) STATE 197400

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES VIEW OF USDEL AND EMBASSY LAGOS
BASED ON INITIAL SESSION WITH HARRIMAN AND GARBA (REF A)
THAT ROOM FOR COMPROMISE BY NIGERIANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS
ON DRAFT DECLARATION IS LIMITED. WE WELCOME NIGERIAN
AGREEMENT TO (QUOTE) DELETE OR COMPLETELY REPHRASE
PARA 17 (END QUOTE), ALTHOUGH WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT ANY RE-
PHRASING OF THIS PARA COULD MAKE BASIC CONCEPT ACCEPTABLE
FOR US.

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2. PROCEDURALLY, WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO WORK AS
CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF WESTERN FIVE.
WE SEE THIS AS IMPORTANT BOTH IN TERMS OF SECURING BEST
POSSIBLE DECLARATION AT LAGOS AND IN PRESERVING COHESION
OF WESTERN FIVE ON OTHER AFRICAN ISSUES. WE APPRECIATE,
HOWEVER, TACTICAL NEED TO PLAY DOWN BLOC BARGAINING
TACTICS (THOUGH THAT KIND OF CRITICISM IS NOT VERY

CONVINCING COMING FROM AFRICANS).

3. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, WE AGREE WITH USDEL THAT PARAS 20 AND 22 ARE LIKELY TO POSE GREATEST PROBLEMS FOR U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED. AS REGARDS PARA 20, WE BELIEVE INCLUSION OF NPT LANGUAGE (REF B) CAN BE PRESENTED TO NIGERIANS AND OTHERS AS ACTUALLY MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO AFRICANS THAN THEIR PROPOSED LANGUAGE CALLING FOR AN END TO ALL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA SINCE ADHERENCE TO NPT WOULD BRING SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS. AS REGARDS PARA 22, ADDITION OF WORD (QUOTE) NEW (END QUOTE) HARDLY IMPROVES EXISTING TEXT AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DELETION OF ENTIRE LAST SENTENCE OF THAT PARA.

4. AS REGARDS PARA 21 AND ITS CALL FOR FINDING UNDER CHAPTER VII OF CHARTER, WE BELIEVE NIGERIANS AND OTHERS WELL UNDERSTAND THAT, OFFENSIVE AS APARTHEID IS, THERE IS A SERIOUS QUESTION WHETHER IT CAN BE CONSIDERED THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER CHARTER.

5. LEGITIMIZATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OPERATING WITHIN SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY IMPLIED IN NIGERIAN
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LANGUAGE FOR PARAS 18 AND 24 COULD POSE MAJOR PROBLEM IN TERMS OF OUR ONGOING RELATIONS WITH SAG AND OUR COMMON INTEREST WITH NIGERIANS AND OTHERS IN SECURING COOPERATIVE SAG POSITIONS ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. WE SUGGEST THAT USDEL POINT OUT TO NIGERIANS AND OTHERS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE ASPECT OF ADOPTING LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD INFLAME SOUTH AFRICAN SENTIMENT, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS UNLIKELY TO STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG AFRICANS.

CHRISTOPHER

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